(ii) Rs. 60.33 crores to be realised on account of import of fatty acids.

(iii) Rs. 3.00 crores as investment made in Tea Trading Corporation of India (TTCI), a wholly owned subsidiary of STC.

The Board of Directors of STC considered the comment and keeping in view the facts that the amounts at (i) and (ii) above are debts to be realised from the Government and sale of tea gardens is under process in TTCI, the Board decided not to make any provisions for these amounts. The shareholders of STC in the Annual General Meeting also approved the stand taken by STC Board.

(c) and (d). The C & AG has commented upon STC's accounting policy/practice relating to turnover, investments, investory, maintenance and reporting of loans and advances. The accounting policies of the Corporation are based on established accounting principles and are being followed from year to year.

Abid Hussain Committee

2149. SHRI UTTAM SINGH PAWAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have since received the reports of Abid Hussain Committee for promotional package for the small and tiny sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and by when it is likely to be received?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of (a) above, does not arise.

(c) The term of the Committee has been extended upto 31st December, 1996, for enabling it to submit its report.

Coir Development Project in Kerala

2150. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are extending assistance to Kerala for integrated coir development project;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith date of providing such assistance;

(c) whether the assistance has not been provided for the last two years;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the implementation of the project are standstill due to lack of funds;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken for earlier release of assistance?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). The Integrated Coir Development Project (ICDP) of the Government of Kerala was approved by the Central Government during 1993-94. The total cost of the project is Rs. 44.24 crores of which Government of India's share of 20% comes to Rs. 8.84 crores only. First instalment of Central assistance of Rs. 24.00 lakhs was released in 1993-94.

(c) and (d). More Funds could not be released to the State Government of Kerala due to procedural delays and for want of requisite approvals.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) Necessary approval of competent authrority has been obtained for release of fund for the ICDP, Kerala.

Busy Season Credit Policy for Exporters

2151. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any 'Busy Season Credit Policy' to boost exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether cost on exports has gone up due to rise in 6.5 percent interest on packing credit to 13 percent and banks have been charging arbitrary rates for bills delayed beyond 90 days;

(d) whether the Government have received any complaints from small exporters for non-availability of adequate export credit at cheaper rates; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to remove the difficulties faced by exporters?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The Monetary Policy for the second half of 1996-97 was announced by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 19.10.1996. The measures relating to exports announced in the policy inter alia include (i) upward revision in export credit targets in banks, from existing 10% to 12% of net bank credit to be achieved by the banks by end March, 1997 (ii) rationalisation of interest rates for post-shipment rupee credit on usance bills effective from 21st October, 1996 in terms of which the interest rate applicable upto a total period of 90 days is 13% per annum and beyond the total period of 90 days and upto 6 months from the date of shipment 15% per annum. The revision in interest rates is applicable to existing outstanding advances also.

(c) RBI has reported that from October/November 1993, exporters can avail of export credit in foreign currency at interest rates linked to LIBOR or in rupees and enjoy the forward premium available. Thus, the

interest rates for export credit are quite competitive and comparable to international rates. Further, credit is only one of the inputs for exports.

(d) and (e). Complaints from exporters received in the Government generally pertain to non-availability of adequate export credit at cheaper rates. RBI has issued detailed instructions to banks to ensure that (i) no worthwhile export suffers for want of funds (ii) cases of rejection of export credit proposals are brought to the notice of the Chief Executive explaining reasons for rejection; and (iii) grievance of exporter-borrowers in the matter of timely and adequate sanction of credit limits are redressed promptly.

Setting up of a Dry port at Kandla

2152. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the facilities to be provided at the Dry Port at Kandla and the cost of the project;

(b) the details of any other sites under consideration of the Government for setting up such dry ports in the country, Statewise; and

(c) the time by which these ports are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) A dry port normally means provision of facilities like warehousing of cargo, customs clearance, stuffing/destuffing, banking, services of steamer agents, freight forwarders, etc., at points away from maritime ports. In India these facilities are being provided at Inland Container Depots (ICDs) and Container Freight Stations (CFSs) which have been set up at various places. An Inter Ministerial Committe (IMC) is functioning in the Ministry of Commerce to provide single window clearance to the proposals for setting up of Dry Ports (Inland Container Depots/Container Freight Stations (ICDs/CFSs). A proposal of Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) for setting up a CFS at Kandla was cleared by the said IMC. The CFS at Kandla which has been built at a cost of approx. Rs. 1.5 crores by CWC is in operation since March, 1996.

(b) and (c). The Government considers proposals for setting up ICDs/CFSs as and when received. The proposals under consideration of Government for setting up Dry Ports in the country, State-wise are as under :

1. Kerala - (CFSs at Aroor and Cochin)
2. Maharashtra - (CFSs at Dronagiri Node and New Bombay)
3. Uttar Pradesh - (ICD at Dadri)
4. Tamil Nadu-(CFS at Tuticorin)
5. Gujarat - (CFS at Rajkot)
6. Rajasthan - (ICD at Bhiwadi)

Export of Cotton

2153. SHRI SANAT MEHTA :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to withdra all restrictions from export of cotton and cotton v during the current cotton season;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to help the cotton grov is to boost its export?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) An export quota of 5.15 lakh bales has already been released early in the cotton year 1996-97.

Besides, with a view to help cotton growers, Minimum Support Prices (MSP) have been announced by Government. The Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI) has been entering most of the major cotton parists to make commercial purchases. Various State Marketing Federations are also purchasing cotton from the growers directly. To enhance the production of cotton, the Ministry of Agriculture has taken various measures including the implementation of Intensive Cotton Development Programme. The CCI has also taken up extension projects for supplementing the efforts of State Governments.

[Translation]

Funds for Research and Exploration Work

2154. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the funds allocated for research and exploration work in coal industry during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether proper utilisation of the allocated amount was not made during the last four years of the Plan;

(c) if so, the total actual amount spent on research and exploration work till March, 1996; and

(d) the details of the research and exploration work done for the development of coal industry during the Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) The total outlay in the Eighth Five Year Plan towards research and development activities in the coal sector and regional exploration of coal was Rs. 87 crores and Rs. 25 crores respectively. The provision of Rs. 25 crores for regional exploration was subsequently increased to Rs. 45 crores during mid-term appraisal of the Plan.